Assistance to States for infrastructure projects

2042 SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have notified certain States/UTs for grant of assistance for investment subsidy on infrastructure projects under the 'Strengthening/development of agricultural marketing infrastructure grading and standardization Scheme';

(b) if so, the details in this regard and the criteria for identifying beneficiary States/UTs;

(c) whether Karnataka would also be considered for grant of assistance under the Scheme; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The State of Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Manipur, Himachal Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Nagaland, Sikkim, Punjab and Andaman and Nicobar Island have been notified for grant of Central assistance under the scheme.

The scheme is implemented in the States that amend the law dealing with Agricultural Produce Marketing Regulation (APMC Act), wherever required, to allow direct marketing and contract farming and to permit setting up of competitive markets in private and cooperative sectors.

(c) and (d) In order to become eligible for grant of assistance under this Scheme, Karnataka will have to amend its APMC as indicated above.

Starvation-free nation

†2043.SHRI MANGANI LAL MANDAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have announced its resolution to make the country a starvation-free and glorious nation by December, 2007 while the foodgrain production has declined to 8 per cent during

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.